

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/531,917

Examiner

Dirk Wright

Applicant(s)

KITAMURA ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date all to date
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other ____.

Claims Allowed

Claims 1-15 are allowable over the prior art of record. The claims are allowable because the prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention of: an apparatus for controlling an automatic transmission comprising: a vehicle drive system in which a gear type transmission and a friction clutch are connected in series; a gear changing device for changing said gear type transmission; a clutch drive device for disengaging and engaging said friction clutch; an operating condition detecting device for detecting an operating condition of an engine; and a control unit for inputting detected signals from said operating condition detecting device, and outputting control signals to said gear changing device and said clutch drive device based on the detected signals, wherein said control unit determines whether a stop intention condition of a driver is satisfied or not, and performs first gear change control for, if said stop intention condition is determined to be satisfied, disengaging said friction clutch and changing said gear type transmission to a neutral position, and second gear change control for, when an accelerator opening becomes greater than or equal to a predetermined value, after said friction clutch is disengaged and said gear type transmission is changed to the neutral position by said first gear change control, changing said gear type transmission to a gear according to a vehicle speed, and engaging said friction clutch.

No particular single feature of the claim renders the claim as a whole patentable. Only the claim taken as a whole combination is deemed new and unobvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 3681

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Leo Jennings on May 18, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

The existing Abstract was replaced with the following one:

In an automatic transmission having a clutch and a gear type transmission, a control unit for inputting detected signals from the operating condition detecting device, and outputting control signals to the gear changing device and the clutch drive device based on the detected signals. The control unit determines whether a stop intention condition of a driver is satisfied or not, and performs first gear change control for, if the stop intention condition is determined to be satisfied, disengaging the friction clutch and changing the gear type transmission to a neutral position, and second gear change control for, when an accelerator opening becomes greater than or equal to a predetermined value, after the friction clutch is disengaged and the gear type transmission is changed to the neutral position by the first gear change by the first gear change control, changing the gear type transmission to a gear according to a vehicle speed, and engaging the friction clutch.

Prior Art Discussed

The references cited in Applicant's Information Disclosure Statements filed April 19, 2005, December 7, 2006, December 28, 2006 and February 21, 2007. None of the references show all of the features of the claimed invention, nor do they show that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine features therefrom to create the claimed invention.

The references cited by the examiner are deemed pertinent to applicant's disclosure. None of the references show all of the features of the claimed invention, nor do they show that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine features therefrom to create the claimed invention.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dirk Wright whose telephone number is 571-272-7098. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3681

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dirk Wright
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dirk Wright', written over the printed name and title.

DW
Monday, May 07, 2007